

# **DMUMC Policy Regarding Use of Building and Grounds**

## ***Introduction***

Scripture declares:

*‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.’ Isaiah 56:7*

Our Welcome Statement declares:

*“As our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to love and accept every person, Duke Memorial United Methodist Church welcomes into our life together those of every age, race, ethnic background, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, family or socioeconomic status, educational background, and physical or mental ability. In our commitment to the reconciliation of all persons as beloved children of God, we celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all. We invite you to join us in our faith journey toward discipleship in Christ with mutual respect, understanding, and love.”*

The church building and grounds offer sanctuary to many people, in many different ways:

- For church members and visitors, a sanctuary for worship.
- For preschoolers and their teachers, a sanctuary for learning.
- For mourners, a sanctuary for grieving.
- For organizations that share our space, a sanctuary for service.
- For our Durham neighbors, a sanctuary for respite.

This policy is intended to help us live into our Welcome Statement while ensuring safety and sanctuary for all who come here.

## ***Policy***

The church grounds are a sacred space, and we are all guests in God’s house. All persons visiting this sacred space are asked to show respect for the grounds and facilities.

To safeguard the children who attend our Weekday School and Parents Morning Out programs, access inside the church office and education buildings during hours of operation of those programs (8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday when school or summer camp is in session) is limited to persons who work, volunteer, or are attending a meeting inside the building. During these hours, visitors whose names appear in church office records or have been provided in advance to office staff by individuals working within the church are invited to enter the building through the front doors of the Welcome Center, or use the intercom to request admittance through the door in the back under the Welcome awning. All other visitors, including those who need to speak with ministry staff and those seeking respite in the Welcome Center, are invited to enter the building through the front doors of the Welcome Center. Visitors shall not be permitted in parts of the building other than the Welcome Center or church office area unless they are

accompanied by a church staff member or another individual working within the building. If staff are not available to monitor the Welcome Center, visitors shall be asked to leave and return at a later time. At all times, office staff and volunteers shall make sure to adhere to the church's Safe Sanctuaries policy.

Like any cemetery, the columbarium is a place for quiet meditation and reflection. Those here to pay their respects to family and friends who have passed on desire quiet and solitude to mourn. Do not eat or drink in the columbarium or in the area surrounding it, or engage in other activities that might disturb the peace of those seeking solace here.

All are welcome to use the picnic tables as a place for respite and for meals.

Dispose of trash in the receptacles provided.

Take care not to leave personal belongings on church property, as unattended belongings may be discarded.

Use the restrooms and port-a-potty provided.

Consistent with United Methodist Church policy regarding the use of tobacco, smoke only in designated smoking areas.

Consistent with United Methodist Church policy, do not bring any weapons onto church grounds.

Consistent with United Methodist Church policy and governing state and federal law, the possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs on church grounds is absolutely prohibited.

There will be no nighttime usage of church property outside of official church or church sanctioned activities.